

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 19 and 21-27 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-6, 8-13 and 15-27 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Indefiniteness:

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In reply, the “user data storage means” may correspond to the user database 114 described on page 47, lines 2-16 of the specification. With respect to the “advertisement control means”, that element may correspond to the advertisement contract part 106 and the advertisement storage part 107 as described on page 21, line 9 to page 22, line 15 of the specification. Also, claim 11 has been amended to make it clear that it is directed to an apparatus, and not to a method.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, claims 2-6, 8-13 and 15-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,882,348 to Hirono in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,734,873 to Herf and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,948,131 to Neven and U.S. Patent No. 5,848,373 to Delorme. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 2 recites, among other things, an ‘interaction connection means’ for receiving an interaction request indicating said other users position marks displayed in said user position display means and specified by said user, checking the user IDs corresponding to said other users position marks from said user storage data means, and starting an interacting function program to provide connection between said user and said other users having the checked user IDs. See, for example, paragraphs 0126 and 0127 of the published patent application specification, which are provided hereinbelow:

[0126] The interaction connection part 115 provides connection between the user and others specified by the user. The user can specify the other users position marks displayed in the three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation and desire to interact with others. As the connection method, E-mail, phone, and chat can be considered.

[0127] When the user specifies the other users position marks displayed in the three-dimensional image stereoscopic representation on the client terminal 2, the client terminal notifies to the information providing server 1 that there is an interaction request. The interaction connection part 115 of the information providing server 1 checks the user IDs of the specified users from the user database 114. The interaction connection part 115 starts up an execution application of a predetermined interaction means such as E-mail and provides connection between the user and the users having the checked user IDs. A process whether the interaction is established or not or is denied from the other users side or not is performed in the started execution application.

On page 23 of the Office Action, it asserts that Applicant’s arguments provided in the previously-filed response were not directed to features recited in the claims, and that Applicant needs to point out where the interaction connection means is described in the specification.

In reply, paragraphs 0126 and 0127 of the published patent application specification describe that the connection between a first user and a second user is provided when receiving an interaction request indicating second user position marks, whereby the ‘interaction connection means’ checks the user IDs corresponding to second users position marks from a user storage means and starts and interacting function program. Thus, the user in the present invention does not have to know the destination address of other users that the user of DeLorme has to know.

Since DeLorme does not teach or suggest the claimed interaction connection means, and since Herf, Neven and Hirono also do not teach or suggest the claimed interaction

connection means, presently pending independent claim 2, as well as presently pending independent claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15-17, 19 and 21-27 that recite similar features, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/14/2010

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